

## MEASURING GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS

A notion that has influenced esoteric thought for centuries now forms the basis of a continuing, mind-boggling parapsychology experiment. Could our thoughts and intentions—before they become actions—alter the world?

During an EEG (an electroencephalogram), electrodes detect electrical signals transmitted between brain cells and record patterns of activity. This is not a measure of the mind itself, but of the electrical processes that somehow generate consciousness.

Now, imagine the Earth as a brain; humans, perhaps all life, as brain cells; and a network of random event generators (REGs, like high-speed, electronic coin-tossers) as electrodes. This is the Global Consciousness Project, and it appears to be measuring, well, something.

Begun in 1998, it now involves more than 75 networked computers, known as Eggs ("electrogaiagrams"), in about 30 countries including the USA, UK, Russia, Fiji, Cuba and Romania.

The project grew from experiments by Dr Roger Nelson of Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research. For over 20 years, researchers at this leading parapsychology institute have been studying the effects of



human consciousness on REGs, demonstrating to their satisfaction that individual minds can subtly influence random mechanical processes and create deviations from expected chance results.

Nelson examined what happened to a REG when several people focused on a single event, at a theatre or sports stadium. The results were impressive but, perplexingly, the generator's location was irrelevant: the effects were present anywhere. REGs in America, for instance, were noticeably affected by Princess Diana's funeral in 1997.

Nelson's team claims that periods of widespread attention or concentration correspond to notable fluctuations in the Egg network's data. For example, significant results were recorded after the Turkish earthquakes of August 1999, on millennium eve, the 2000 US presidential elections, and September 11, 2001, when the GCP network responded in a "powerful and evocative way".

(Source: The Guardian, July 24, 2003)

## CHINESE HERB FIGHTS MALARIA PARASITE

A hitherto unknown but vital weakness in the malaria parasite has been exposed by studying extracts from ancient Chinese anti-fever remedies. The discovery

opens a new front in the fight against the parasite, which has become resistant in most parts of the world to the most common anti-malarial drug, chloroquine.

Derived from the Chinese herb qinghao, or sweet wormwood (*Artemisia annua*), the extracts have already helped millions of patients in Southeast Asia who would otherwise have suffered or died when conventional drugs failed against malaria (*New Scientist*, 13 July 1996, page 4).

Now researchers have discovered how the drugs, called artemisinins, actually work, revealing a chink in the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite's armour.

The chink is one of the two enzymes that enable the parasite to pump the correct amount of calcium into its cell membranes. "Artemisinin hits one of those pumps directly," says Sanjeev Krishna, head of the research team at St George's Hospital Medical School in London. Once the calcium pump has been disabled, the parasite dies within hours, although Krishna does not yet know the precise mechanism.

(Source: *New Scientist*, vol. 179, issue 2409, 23 August 2003)

## IDENTITY THEFT ON THE RISE

A survey conducted by the US Federal Trade Commission estimates that more than 27 million Americans have been victims of identity theft in the last five years, including nearly 10 million in the last year alone.

According to the survey, businesses and financial institutions suffered losses of



nearly US\$48 billion last year. Consumers spent nearly \$5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses and nearly 300 million hours to resolve the problems created by identity theft.

According to the survey, 67 per cent of the respondents said their credit card accounts had been misused in the past year. Another 19 per cent said thieves had tapped into their checking or savings accounts.

Based on the survey results, the FTC estimates that, in the last 12 months, 3.23 million consumers discovered that new accounts had been opened and that other frauds such as renting an apartment or home, obtaining medical care or gaining employment had been committed in their name.

(Source: New York Times, September 3, 2003)

## SMART-CHIP BIOMETRICS FOR NEW US PASSPORTS

A senior US government official has laid out detailed plans for the timing and form of US government-issued biometric passports.

Frank Moss, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Passport Services, presented his organisation's plans to evolve to a new, more secure "intelligent document" from today's paper-based passports at the Smart Card Alliance's Government Conference and Expo last week.

"Our goal is to begin production by October 26, 2004," Moss announced.

Current plans call for the new passport books to include a contactless smart chip based on the 14443 standard, with a minimum of 32 kilobytes of EEPROM storage. The chip will contain a compressed full-face image for use as a biometric. European biometric passports, by contrast, are planned to feature both retinal and fingerprint recognition biometrics on their smart cards.

For US passports, the image and the passport information stored on the contactless chip will be digitally signed to ensure the integrity of both the data and the passport itself.

With this approach, "you can read a chip and confirm its validity, but you cannot create one. That is the beauty of public key technology," said Moss.

Under the US Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002, countries whose citizens enjoy visa-free travel to the United States must issue passports

with biometric identifiers no later than October 26, 2004.

(Source: The Register, July 22, 2003, <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/31885.html>)

## VACCINES LINKED TO EPIDEMIC IN CHILDHOOD DIABETES

The prestigious peer-reviewed *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism* published a study in late May by Dr J. Bart Classen, an immunologist at Classen Immunotherapies, and David Carey Classen, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Utah, providing support for a causal relationship between several common paediatric vaccines and the development of insulin-dependent diabetes.

Their previously published work proved that the haemophilus vaccine, a common paediatric vaccine, caused a 25% rise in insulin-dependent diabetes in children under the age of seven.

The Classens' research indicates most cases of diabetes caused by vaccines occur between 24 to 48 months after immunisation of young children, but the delay can be shorter in older children with prior damage to their pancreas.

The time delay between vaccination and diabetes corresponds exactly with work from several independent groups which showed a similar delay between the initiation of autoimmunity to the insulin-secreting islet cells and the development of diabetes.

For the latest information on the effects of vaccines on insulin-dependent diabetes and other autoimmune diseases, visit the Vaccine Safety website at <http://vaccines.net>.

(Source: Classen Immunotherapies, Inc., USA, press release, May 27, 2003, via PRNewswire.com)

## CAMERAMAN KILLED FOR FILMING SECRET MASS GRAVE OF US TROOPS

On Sunday, August 17, US troops shot dead the award-winning Reuters cameraman Mazen Dana while he was filming near the US-run Abu Gharib prison in Baghdad.

Nazmi Dana, the brother of Mazen Dana, says Mazen was murdered for discovering and filming mass graves of US troops killed in Iraqi resistance attacks.

"The US occupation troops shot dead my brother on purpose, although he was wearing his press badge, which was also emblazoned on the car he was driving.

"Mazen told me by phone a few days before his death that he'd discovered a mass grave dug by US troops to conceal the bodies of their fellow comrades killed in Iraqi resistance attacks," Nazmi said.

"He also told me that he found many US troops covered in plastic bags in remote desert areas, and he filmed them for a TV program. We are sure that the American forces had killed Mazen knowingly, to prevent him from airing his finding."

(Source: IslamOnline.net, August 20, 2003)



## CIA & DIA ACCUSED OF SECRET ELECTRONIC HEIST ON IRAQ'S CENTRAL BANK

The US CIA and DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) are accused by *International Currency Review*, a UK-based journal, of mounting a joint, ultra-secret operation to electronically remove an estimated US\$10 billion out of the Iraq Central Bank just hours before the start of Persian Gulf War II. The whereabouts of the money is not known.

"We believe it is in a secret CIA fund which will be used to mount further special services operations," said the *Review's* publisher, Christopher Story.

Story was a financial adviser to Lady Thatcher when she was Britain's Prime Minister. In the past 10 years, he has testified before several congressional committees dealing with financial scandals.

The report published by the *Review* is titled "The Great Robbery of the Central Bank of Iraq". It has been sent to finance ministers of leading nations, the World Bank, the Bank of England and heads of all other major banks.

The operation, claims the *Review*, was masterminded by the CIA/DIA out of a military facility, Redstone Arsenal, in Alabama.

"The money was laundered through a number of CIA-controlled accounts, including some held in the Discount Bank

of Israel, Credit Suisse in Switzerland and the Dresdner Bank in Germany," said Story.

The *Review* also states: "The US Department of Agriculture is used as a paymaster for certain DIA 'black operations' because it has traditionally remained unscrutinised."

The *Review* says it has testimony from whistleblowers that the operation was designed to "...purloin the Iraq Central Bank's assets ahead of the arrival of US troops in Baghdad. This suggests that the operation was designed for a nefarious purpose, rather than to help use it for the rebuilding of Iraq."

After interviewing "a number of US intelligence operatives", Story confirmed he received warnings to stop his investigation. "I was told that '19 people are very dead as a result of trying to cover what you are exposing'," Story wrote.

(Source: Gordon Thomas, *American Free Press*, August 28, 2003, <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/THO308A.html>)

## HEALTHCARE WORKERS REFUSE SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS

A plan to vaccinate nearly half a million healthcare workers in the USA against smallpox in case of a bioterrorist attack has ground to a halt. Over 90% of the 420,000 health workers have refused the job.

The vaccination program, announced by President Bush last December, included mandatory smallpox vaccinations for half a million military personnel, and voluntary vaccinations for another half a million "first responders"—the healthcare workers needed to carry out emergency vaccination and treat victims during an outbreak.

But doctors and nurses have stayed away in droves. Major hospitals, such as the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, have refused to have any

of their staff vaccinated.

It was also not clear whether there would be any compensation for staff needing time off or medical care due to vaccine complications. Such compensation has been approved in principle, but the details have still not been published.

The second phase, in which the vaccine was to be offered to millions more health-care workers and the public, was quietly shelved by the CDC in June, after recently vaccinated soldiers and civilians developed complications. There were 52 cases of pericardial or heart inflammation. There were also other heart problems, including eight heart attacks, three of them fatal, though this was in the "normal" range.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 23 August 2003)

## BIOCIRCUIT BEHAVIOUR

Electronic circuits could soon be made from biological rather than inorganic materials. Researchers have found that molecules of guanosine, a building block of RNA, behave like tiny transistors.

Stefano D'Amico at the University of Lecce in Italy chose guanosine because its molecules tend to line up in strings that act as diodes, allowing current through in one direction but not the other.

When he placed guanosine molecules between two gold electrodes, the molecules self-organised into strips to bridge the gap, forming two diodes lying back to back—in effect, a transistor (*Microelectronics Journal*, DOI: 10.1016/S0026-2692(03)00197-6).

Sure enough, the strips behaved like a transistor when current was switched on. (Source: *New Scientist*, 30 August 2003, <http://www.newscientist.com>)

## DNA REPAIR DELAY RAISES X-RAY SAFETY FEARS

Assumptions about the safety of medical X-rays are being challenged by the finding that cells exposed to low doses of radiation don't bother to repair damaged DNA. That casts doubt on the validity of current estimates of safe doses, which are calculated from high-dose experiments.

A team at the University of Saarland in Homburg, Germany, exposed human lung cells to a range of X-ray doses. At higher doses of about 200 milligrays, cells repaired 95% of their damage within a day. But cells receiving around 1 milligray—equivalent to a normal X-ray—did not perform any repairs for days (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, DOI:



"I fell below the minimum balance required on my cheque account for three consecutive bank statements. How about you?"

10.1073/pnas.0830918100).

Team member Kai Rothkamm thinks this apparent neglect might actually be a safety measure, since poorly executed repairs can cause dangerous mutations. "If only one cell in every 10 has sustained DNA damage, it may be safer just to let that cell die," he says. But at higher doses, repair becomes vital.

However, the opposite might be true: unrepaired DNA could pose a cancer risk. Rothkamm says more experiments are needed to resolve the issue.

Radiation authorities warn against reading too much into the finding. "We don't feel it would have any immediate effect on our risk estimates for X-rays," says Michael Clark of Britain's National Radiological Protection Board.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 5 April 2003)

## MONSANTO ENGINEERS CONSUMER RIGHTS

**M**onsanto is suing Oakhurst Dairy of Portland, Maine, for labelling its milk "Our Farmers' Pledge: No Artificial Growth Hormones".

According to Monsanto, manufacturer of the genetically engineered recombinant bovine growth hormone (known as rBGH or rBST), Oakhurst Dairy does not have the right to let its customers know whether its milk is laced with GE hormones. Oakhurst says it's been labelling its products like this for four years, in response to consumer demand.

Although rBGH has been banned in every industrialised nation in the world except for the USA, Monsanto continues to claim that rBGH-derived milk is no different from the natural stuff, despite documentation that rBGH milk contains substantially higher levels of a potent cancer tumour promoter called IGF-1.

Monsanto sued two dairies and threatened several thousand retailers in 1994 for labelling or advertising milk and dairy products as "rBGH-free". Despite Monsanto's intimidation tactics, more than 10% of US milk is currently labelled as "rBGH-free", while sales of organic milk and dairy products (which prohibit rBGH) are booming.

In recent months, a Monsanto-funded front group, the Center for Consumer Freedom, has launched a smear campaign against organic dairies, claiming they are defrauding consumers.

(Source: *Organic Consumers Assoc.*, July 23, 2003, <http://www.organicconsumers.org>)

## SADDAM HUSSEIN FLOWN OUT OF BAGHDAD BY USAF

**I**ntrepid independent filmmaker Patrick Dillon has returned from Iraq with some explosive interview and film footage, including of an Iraqi Army officer describing how he saw a US Air Force transport fly Saddam Hussein out of Baghdad.

The officer, who commanded a special combat unit during the battle for Baghdad airport, had been entrusted with the near-impossible job of ensuring that one of the airport's runways would remain operational, no matter what. He goes on to report that there was a ferocious battle at the airport, with losses on both sides far worse than the mainstream news services acknowledge. He deviates even further from officially sanctioned accounts by stating that the battle for control of the airport actually lasted several days longer than commonly believed, culminating around dawn on the morning of April 9th. The officer adamantly maintains that his combat/construction brigade, despite heavy casualties, managed to hold off US troops and preserve a usable length of runway right through the night of April 8th.

Then, early on the morning of April 9th, as the remnants of his unit were close to being overrun, a general ceasefire was unexpectedly declared for 6.00 am. According to the officer, shortly after this went into effect, and in broad daylight, a motorcade of 10 Mercedes stretch limousines suddenly barrelled onto the airfield, carrying Saddam and his entourage. Almost simultaneously, what the officer asserts were four USAF *Hercules* transports swooped down and landed on the lone stretch of intact runway. All four C-130s dropped their rear loading ramps and the limousines drove up into the cargo bays of the waiting planes, which then took off. The officer insists he has no idea where Saddam or any of the other members of his party may have gone.

Dillon says his film lends major support to what many have believed for years: that Saddam was little more than an American tool, a stage-managed "evil-doer"—just one in a long line of useful villains bought and paid for by the United States in order to better manipulate international politics and commerce.

## GRUESOME SECRET WEAPON USED BY US FORCES IN BAGHDAD

**P**atrick Dillon also interviewed eyewitnesses to a nightmarish US superweapon employed by American ground forces during street fighting in Baghdad. The tank-mounted secret weapon was witnessed in all its frightening power by Majid al-Ghazali, a seasoned Iraqi infantryman who described the device and its gruesome effects as unlike anything he had ever encountered in his lengthy military service. In the film, al-Ghazali describes the weapon as reminiscent of a flame thrower, only immensely more powerful. He said it appeared to be shooting concentrated lightning bolts rather than just ordinary flames. Drawing on his many years as a professional engineer, al-Ghazali speculates that radiation of some kind probably figures into the weapon's hideous capabilities.

Like all men in Saddam's Iraq, al-Ghazali was compelled to serve in the Iraqi equivalent of the Army National Guard and fought in three wars over the past 30-odd years. He has seen virtually every type of conventional weapon employed in battle, and is well acquainted with their effects on people and machines. On April 12th, he and his family sheltered in their house while a fierce street battle erupted in his neighbourhood. In the midst of the fighting, he noticed that the Americans had called up an oddly configured tank.

Then, to his amazement, the tank suddenly let loose a blinding stream of what seemed like fire and lightning, engulfing a large passenger bus and three automobiles. Within seconds, the bus had become semi-molten, sagging "like a wet rag" as he put it. He said the bus rapidly melted under this withering blast, shrinking until it was a twisted blob about the dimensions of a VW bug. As if that were not bizarre enough, al-Ghazali explicitly describes seeing numerous human bodies shrivelled to the size of newborn babies. By the time local street fighting ended that day, he estimates between 500 and 600 soldiers and civilians had been cooked alive as a result of the mysterious tank-mounted device.

In a city littered everywhere with burned-out civilian and military vehicles, US forces were abnormally scrupulous about immediately detailing bulldozers and shovel crews to the job of burying the grim wreckage. Nevertheless, telltale remnants remained, as Dillon found when al-Ghazali later took him to the site. Dillon said they easily uncovered large puddles of resolidified metal and mounds of weird fibrous material that, al-Ghazali explained, were all that remained of the vehicles' tyres.

Dillon, who accumulated plenty of battlefield experience as a medic in Vietnam, and has since covered a number of wars from Somalia to Kosovo, told me that he has witnessed every kind of conventional ordnance that can be used on humans and vehicles. "I've seen a freaking smorgasbord of destruction in my life: flame-throwers, napalm, white phosphorus, thermite, you name it. I know of nothing short of an H-bomb that conceivably might cause a bus to instantly liquefy or that can flash-broil a human body down to the size of an infant. God pity humanity if that thing is a preview of what's in store for the 21st century."

(Source: by Bill Dash, August 25, 2003, via Jeff Rense website, <http://www.rense.com>)